

National Agricultural Summary

September 11 - 17, 2000

Weekly National Agricultural Summary provided by USDA/NASS

HIGHLIGHTS

Hot, dry weather ripened crops and aided harvest in most areas of the western Corn Belt and Great Plains. Cool weather delayed ripening, and wet weather delayed harvest in parts of the eastern Corn Belt. Rain also interfered with harvests along the western Gulf Coast, adjacent parts of the interior Mississippi Delta, and most of the

Northeast. In the Southeast, seasonal to above-normal temperatures promoted ripening, and harvest continued with only isolated rain delays. Hard, dry soils limited winter grain seeding in most areas of the Great Plains. Above-normal temperatures ripened fields and harvest activities accelerated in California.

Corn: Ninety-five percent of the crop was dented and 67 percent was mature. Denting progress was slightly behind last year's pace, while acreage mature exceeded last year's progress. Development through both stages was about 1 week ahead of normal. Above-normal temperatures quickly ripened fields in the southern and western Corn Belt and adjacent parts of the Great Plains. A pocket of cooler-than-normal weather limited ripening in the eastern Corn Belt. Acreage denting more than doubled in Michigan, but progress remained slightly behind normal. Fields also rapidly entered the dent stage in Wisconsin. Sixty percent was mature in Minnesota, up from 20 percent a week earlier. In Illinois and Iowa, about one-fourth of the crop reached maturity during the week. Just 12 percent ripened in Indiana and Kentucky. Harvest advanced to 15 percent complete, compared with 11 percent last year and more than double the 7-percent normal for this date. Dry weather aided harvest progress in the Great Plains, especially in Kansas, where more than one-fourth of the crop was harvested during the week. Harvest was also active in the southern Corn Belt and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. In North Carolina, 25 percent was harvested during the week. Missouri's harvest advanced 20 percentage points and was 90 percent complete in the Bootheel. Kentucky and Tennessee producers harvested 12 and 17 percent, respectively.

Soybeans: Sixty-six percent of the acreage was dropping leaves, ahead of last year's 45-percent pace and 1 week ahead of the 37-percent average for this date. Fields rapidly approached maturity in Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota, where more than 40 percent of the acreage began dropping leaves during the week. In Nebraska, 35 percent of the acreage began shedding leaves. About one-fourth of the acreage began dropping leaves in the southern and eastern Corn Belt. In Michigan, 21 percent began dropping leaves, but progress remained well behind normal. Fields slowly ripened along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. Seven percent was harvested, compared with 5 percent last year and the normal harvest pace of 3 percent. Harvest accelerated in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains. In Kansas, progress more than doubled to 31 percent. Normally, just 3 percent of the Kansas crop would be harvested by this date. Rain limited progress in the eastern Corn Belt, where early progress lagged slightly behind normal. In the lower Mississippi Valley, harvest was aided by dry weather in Mississippi and limited by wet weather in Louisiana.

Cotton: Bolls were opening on 74 percent of the acreage, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 12 percentage points

ahead of the 5-year average. Above-normal temperatures quickly ripened fields in the southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and most of the Southeast. In Oklahoma, bolls began opening on more than one-fifth of the acreage during the week. Development lagged in the Atlantic Coastal Plains, despite rapid progress in North Carolina. Hot weather accelerated ripening in California, where bolls began opening in 25 percent of the fields. Sixteen percent of the crop was picked, compared with 12 percent last year and the 11-percent average. Harvest rapidly advanced in the Mississippi Delta, even though rain limited progress along the western Gulf coast. Louisiana growers picked nearly one-fourth of the crop during the week, while Mississippi and Missouri growers picked 10 percent of their cotton acreage. The harvest pace gained momentum in the Southeast. In Oklahoma, conditions deteriorated in late-maturing fields due to excessive heat and severe moisture shortages.

Winter wheat: Planting progressed to 13 percent complete. Hard, dry soils restricted field preparations and planting in most areas of the Great Plains. However, planting was active in the sandy areas of the central High Plains, despite inadequate moisture supplies. Soft red winter wheat seeding progressed ahead of normal in Michigan, where growers planted 10 percent of the acreage. Rain boosted soil moisture supplies in parts of the wheat-producing areas of the eastern Corn Belt. Planting lagged in the Pacific Northwest.

Rice: Fifty-one percent of the crop was harvested, 4 percentage points behind last year's pace, but equal to the average for this date. Rain prevented completion of the harvest in Texas and Louisiana. Dry weather aided progress in Arkansas and Mississippi, where nearly one-fifth of the acreage was harvested during the week. In California, harvest gained momentum as above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening.

Other Crops: Ninety-four percent of the sorghum acreage was turning color and 77 percent was mature, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Harvest progress, at 55 percent, was also well ahead of last year and the average. Hot, dry weather accelerated ripening and aided harvest in the Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and southern Corn Belt. Eight percent of the peanuts were harvested. Progress lagged well behind last year and the average along the eastern Gulf Coast and adjacent inland areas of the Southeast.